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VIA: Air

DISPATCH NO. ZPCA-19

3 April 1951

TO : CHIEF, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

FROM : CHIEF, SEACA

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for March

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

I. Introduction

This monthly report is general in nature, and is intended to serve as a periodic review of SEACA. It is hoped that the information in these reports will enable the Home Office to evaluate the effectiveness of this activity and, when necessary, suggest changes in principles and procedures. Your comments on this report and its contents are requested.

II. General

SEACA has made considerable progress during the month of March. The activity is only partially implemented and working conditions have been anything but ideal. Nevertheless, the initial commitments have been satisfied, much of the equipment is installed, and many substantial agreements and decisions have been made which will facilitate current operations and permit expansion for handling future commitments.

III. Personnel

A. On duty:

[Redacted box]

B. Changes:

- (1) Arrivals - None
- (2) Departures - [redacted]
- (3) Transfers - None

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C. Movements:

25X1 [] returned from a temporary assignment []
25X1 via [] on March 9, 1951. He departed for the States on March 16, 1951.

D. Allocation:

25X1 [] is performing clerical and administrative duties and is
serving as crypto clerk.
25X1 [] assisting, has been constructing
the transmitter station.
25X1 [] are operating the radio net
and assisting in the crypto work.
25X1 [] are at their respective
posts.

IV. Finance

25X1 The overhead and operating costs of this activity are extremely low.
25X1 [] reimbursements cover the greater portion of expenses. []
25X1 has now received \$4,000 for quarters allowances. As yet, no word has been re-
ceived on the approximate \$10,000 transferred to [] in January.
We are anxiously awaiting word on these funds since the original \$1,000 allo-
cated to this activity is exhausted.

Additional request for funds are being prepared and will be for-
warded to the Home Office. Funds are required for air conditioning and in-
stalling a new power line to the transmitter building, and for miscellaneous
operating expenses for the coming fiscal year.

25X1 [] is functioning on a very limited budget. The squeeze
on funds is accentuated by an unusual expansion of personnel and responsi-
bilities. As usual, the budget has not kept pace with the commitments.

V. Space

25X1 The rapid growth [] has also caused severe space prob-
25X1 lems. [] is presently being renovated and enlarged, but the addi-
tional space will not begin to accommodate all the activities attached to the
embassy.

25X1 We have been very fortunate in procuring a secure crypto room next
25X1 to [] on the third floor. Our radio operating space is
ideally located next to [] room on the second floor, di-
rectly under the code room. A transmitter room and caged storage space have
been obtained at the [] compound.

25X1 As yet, no office space has been made available for [] The
25X1 [] is aware of the need and promises to provide
a room when the construction work is finished.

25X1 Arrangements are completed for soundproofing the operating rooms in
[]

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VI. Equipment

The initial shipments of radio gear arrived in excellent condition and most of it has been installed. Items not required for current operations have been stored for future use.

On March 20, approval was received [] for the transfer of the radio gear evacuated from [] and now stored here []

Negotiations are under way for the turnover of the gear to this activity. Most of it is in poor condition and can correctly be classified under Code D. However, it will be useful as spares, and some of the gear can be reconstructed.

Little attempt has been made to procure gear on the local market. Limited stocks are available but the prices are high. Wire is almost unobtainable, and, when available, is exorbitant in cost.

Power [] is dependable and relatively steady. Unlimited 220v, 3-phase power is available at [] at nominal cost (generated locally) but the present line is not satisfactory since a large machine shop draws from it, causing large fluctuations in line voltage.

VII. Traffic

A. Radio:

The volume of traffic handled over SEACA radio facilities increased rapidly during March. The base station [] handled 129,068 groups during March. This represents a 100% increase over February traffic totals. The capacity of the station will be far greater after the construction work on [] and the installation of the radio sites are completed.

[] has authorized [] to route all traffic over SEACA's facilities. Only 40% of traffic to and from [] is routed over our radio link. Each time that cables were filed over both our radio link and commercial facilities, the commercial carrier was slower, sometimes as much as 24 hours.

B. Crypto:

11,467 groups of crypto work were processed during March. Since March 26, SEACA is doing all decrypting [] and encrypting for [] and SEACA. This additional work has kept all personnel busy 8 to 10 hours a day, 6 days a week. The operators' crypto speed is increasing with experience. It is hoped that the encrypting for the other two stations can be assumed in the very near future. In spite of the temporary hardships, it is obviously advantageous to have SEACA perform all crypto work. Physical, personal, and cryptographic security will be measurably improved, procedures can be regularized, and [] will have only the one group of people to deal with. Separate and detailed reports will be forwarded on group counts and security arrangements.

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VIII. Operations

IX. Miscellaneous

A. SWACA material has been organized into subject and chronological files. We are awaiting the arrival of property cards to organize our property files.

B. A system of SOPs has been initiated for both the base and field stations. Initial directives have been distributed, others will follow as time permits.

C. The lack of transportation has curtailed movements of personnel and equipment. The [] has cooperated within their limitations. A station wagon or carry-all would solve most of the problems. A requisition has been sent to the Home Office on this subject.

D. A general laborer is needed at the transmitter/warehouse building. A request for funds for hiring a local will be included in the next pouch on budget requirements.

E. Pouch channels are now open [] has not yet sent a test pouch. The pouch address [] is not available. The Home Office has been requested to cable this address so that the new call signs, SOPs, and other material can be forwarded []

F. It is anticipated that the new call signs will be in use by the end of April. The call sign suffixes have been assigned and the instructions for their use are prepared. They will be distributed as soon as pouch channels are open.

X. Substations

A. [] handled 62,522 groups of traffic during the month of March. This has saved [] \$18,756.60 in cable charges. [] has experienced several power failures and frequently goes off the air for short periods. It has not seriously affected the flow of traffic since the outages are of short duration. [] has erected a new transmitter antenna and the signals are much improved.

The commercial carriers serving [] are overloaded and are giving [] very poor service at a relatively high cost (\$.30 per group.) [] would like to have all traffic routed over our radio circuit. The [] teletype room has been directed to refile priority and NIACT traffic over commercial carriers when the radio link is closed. We have initiated the practice of retransmitting them over the radio link the

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next day, and invariably the radio link is faster.

25X1 B. []

25X1 [] has the heaviest traffic load of any of the SEACA
25X1 [] However, [] has directed that only 40% of the total
25X1 traffic is to be routed over the SEACA radio link. It is fortunate that
25X1 this limit was set, since [] operator was inexperienced, and, in
25X1 addition, has devoted a part of his time to [] As mentioned in para-
25X1 graph 5, [], 15 March 1951, a serious security problem exists due to
25X1 the almost continuous presence of []

25X1 [] was to pre-
25X1 sent this problem in detail upon his return. We are anxious to receive
25X1 your comments and suggestions for alleviating this problem.

25X1 45,433 groups of traffic were passed over the []
25X1 [] radio link representing a saving of []

25X1 C. []

25X1 Traffic totals to and from [] are low, but apparently
25X1 the radio circuit is highly valued at the post since no other satisfactory
25X1 channels are available. [] has advised that the []
25X1 [] is coming [] and has several problems to discuss.

25X1 The [] circuit handled 21,123 groups of traffic during
25X1 March. These groups would have cost [] if sent over commercial fa-
25X1 cilities. Obviously there is capacity on this circuit for several times
the volume now handled. If other agencies in the area have government
traffic the increase would be welcomed.

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